

# **SRIMADBHAGAVADGITA**

**Summary on  
Sixteenth Chapter  
by  
Swami Paramarthananda**

## SUMMARY (SIXTEENTH CHAPTER)

- Note: 1. Portions in brackets are supplied ideas.  
2. Numbers in brackets indicate the verses.

In the previous three chapters (XIII, XIV, and XV) *Bhagavān* talked about Self-knowledge (*jñānāyoga*) which is the direct means for liberation. In the following two chapters, *Kṛṣṇa* discusses the values to be followed by a seeker. Though values themselves do not give liberation, they are necessary to gain knowledge. They alone prepare the mind and make it fit for receiving the knowledge. In fact, *Vedānta* is a *pramāṇa* (means of knowledge) only for a prepared mind.

In this chapter, *Kṛṣṇa* divides all mental traits into two groups — *daivī-sampat* and *āsuri-sampat*. All sattvic traits come under the former, while rajasic and tamasic traits come under the latter. *Daivī-sampat* is conducive to Self-knowledge; *āsuri-sampat* is an obstacle to spiritual pursuit (5). [Without exception, every one in this universe falls under one of these two groups. From this it is evident that all seekers of knowledge must necessarily lead a spiritual (sattvic) life avoiding materialistic (rajasic and tamasic) tendencies.]

*Kṛṣṇa* enumerates *daivī-sampat* (1 to 3) and *āsuri-sampat* (4 to 21) which is listed below:

### DAIVĪ-SAMPAT

1. Fearlessness (1)
2. Purity (1,3)
3. Scriptural study (1)
4. Charity (1)
5. Sense-control (1)
6. Worship of God (1)
7. Austerity (1)
8. Straightforwardness (1)
9. Non-violence, kindness to all, and absence of ill-will (2, 3)

### ĀSURĪ-SAMPAT

1. Vanity (4,10,14,15,17,18)
2. Arrogance (4,10,14, 15, 17, 18)
3. Pretension (4, 10, 17)
4. Anger (4, 12, 18)
5. Cruelty (4, 9)
6. Ignorance (4, 15)
7. Impurity (7)
8. Absence of religious discipline (7)
9. Absence of truthfulness (7)

SUMMARY

**DAIVĪ-SAMPAT**

10. Truthfulness (2)
11. Renunciation (2)
12. Calmness and patience(2, 3)
13. Absence of slander (2)
14. Absence of greed (2)
15. Gentleness (2)
16. Modesty (2, 3)
17. Steadfastness and absence of restlessness (2, 3)
18. Strength (3)

**ĀSURĪ-SAMPAT**

10. Absence of faith in God (8, 18)
11. Endless desire for sense-pleasure (10, 11, 12, 16, 18)
12. Delusion (10, 15, 16)
13. False values (10, 16)
14. Worry (11)
15. Attachment (12)
16. Greed (12, 13, 14)
17. Egoism (18)
18. Slander (18)

*Āsurī-sampat* leads a person astray causing (spiritual) destruction ultimately (19, 20). *Kṛṣṇa* sums up the entire *āsurī-sampat* as the three basic materialistic traits of desire, anger, and greed. They are the three-fold gateway to hell (21). When one avoids these three traits and adopts the divine virtues, *daivī-sampat*, one becomes qualified for Self-knowledge and attains liberation soon (22).

The Lord concludes the chapter by pointing out that *śāstra* is the *pramāṇa* in determining what is right and wrong. One should know what the scriptures say and act accordingly (23, 24).

The topics in this chapter are:

1. *Daivī-sampat*..... 1 to 3
2. *Āsurī-sampat*..... 4 to 21
3. Importance of *śāstra* and conclusion .....22 to 24

Since this chapter deals with *daiva* (spiritual) and *āsura* (materialistic) traits, it is called *Daivāsurasampadvibhāga-yoga*.

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